

Remarks:

1. Applicants have amended the specification to clearly define the phrase “return flux lines” as supported by Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and the relevant descriptions of the various embodiments disclosed in the specification.
2. Claims 1-24 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lutz (6,522,130).
 - a. Regarding claim 1, applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly point out that the return flux lines emanate from a magnetic pole of a first magnet surface and return to an opposite magnetic pole of a second magnet surface. Applicants have also removed the previously inserted words “radial” and “radially” from the previously amended claims in order not to confuse the type of return flux lines with the radial or axial component of a return flux line. This clearly patentably distinguishes the instant invention over Lutz. Lutz teaches and claims placing the magnetic field sensors in the tangential plane, the flux line emanating and returning to the same surface of the magnet. In contradistinction, the instant invention places the magnetic field sensor in returning flux lines (emanating from one magnet surface and returning to the opposite pole of a second magnetic surface). This can be seen in Figures 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the instant application. Additionally, the method and structure of Lutz requires 2 sensors and multi-pole magnets, whereas the method and structure of the instant application only requires one sensor and one pole pair. Applicants contend that this patentably distinguishes

the instant invention over the prior art and that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

- b. Regarding claims 2-8, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(a), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.
- c. Regarding claim 9, the same amendments have been made to claim 9 that were made to claim 1. The same arguments concerning placing the magnetic sensor in a radial return flux line apply. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance.
- d. Regarding claims 10-16, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 9, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(c), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.
- e. Regarding claim 17, the same amendments have been made to claim 17 that were made to claim 1. The same arguments concerning placing the magnetic sensor in a radial return flux line apply. Therefore, applicants contend that claim 17 is now in condition for allowance.
- f. Regarding claims 18-24, as these claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 17, for at least the reasons cited above in 2(e), applicants contend these claims are in condition for allowance.

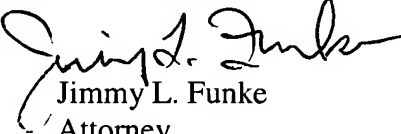
Appl. No. 10/754,026
Amdt. Dated
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2005

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application.

Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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